INITIAL STUDY
AND PROPOSED
NEGATIVE DECLARATION

FOR

WEST STANISLAUS IRRIGATION DISTRICT
DELTA MENDOTA CANAL INTERTIE PROJECT

Post Office Box 37

West Stanislaus Irrigation District
116 E Street
Westley, California 95387

September 8, 2010

WEST STANISLAUS IRRIGATION DISTRICT
PUBLIC NOTICE OF PROPOSED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

The West Stanislaus Irrigation District (WSID) prepares, makes, declares and publishes this proposed Negative Declaration for the **WEST STANISLAUS IRRIGATION DISTRICT DELTA MENDOTA CANAL INTERTIE PROJECT.**

Project Description: The Project will construct an intertie between the end of reach 4 of the WSID Main Canal, that portion of the Main Canal westerly of existing Pump Station 4, and easterly of existing Pump Station 5, and the Delta-Mendota Canal (DMC) at Mile Post 31.31L. The Project will consist of a new pump station, fitted with multiple pumps, valving and manifolding, and approximately 5300 feet of 96 inch pipeline. The pump station will be designed to deliver approximately 250 cubic feet per second. The proposed conveyance pipeline will connect the proposed pump station to the existing box culverts for the DMC turnout at Mile Post 31.31.L.

Project Location: The Project is located within the WSID in western Stanislaus County, California, approximately two mile-s north of the community of Wesley. The majority of the project will be located within existing WSID right-of-way or easements. Additional easements will be required to accommodate the Project west of the Main Canal and provide sufficient contractor work area during construction of the Project.

Determination: WSID has reviewed the proposed Project and has determined that the Project, as identified in the attached Initial Study, will not have a significant effect on the environment. An Environmental Impact Report is not required pursuant to the Environmental Quality Act of 1970 (Division 13 of the Public Resources code of the State of California).

Public Review: This Initial Study/Negative Declaration has been prepared in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and contains an environmental review of the potential impacts of the proposed Project. This Initial Study/Negative Declaration is being circulated for 30 days from September 8, 2010 through October 8, 2010. **Comments on the Initial Study/Negative Declaration can be sent by 5:00 p.m. October 8, 2010 to:**

West Stanislaus Irrigation District
Att: Robert Pierce
Post Office Box 37
116 E Street
Westley, California 95387

Comments will be reviewed by WSID, and the Initial Study/Negative Declaration will be revised, as appropriate, prior to adoption of the proposed Negative Declaration by WSID, which is scheduled for October 12, 2010.

This environmental review process and Negative Declaration filing is pursuant to Title 14, Division 6, Chapter 3, Article 6, Section 15070 of the California Administrative Code.

A copy of this document may be reviewed/obtained at the district, at the address set forth above.

Robert Pierce
Secretary

PROPOSED
WEST STANISLAUS IRRIGATION DISTRICT
NEGATIVE DECLARATION REGARDING ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

1. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Project described below has been reviewed pursuant to the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act of 1970 (Public Resources Code Section 21100, et seq.) and a determination has been made that it will not have a significant effect upon the environment.

2. PROJECT NAME: West Stanislaus Irrigation District Delta Mendota Canal Intertie Project

3. DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT: The Project will consist of the construct an intertie between the end of Reach 4 of the WSID Main Canal, that portion of the Main Canal westerly of existing Pump Station 4 and easterly of existing Pump Station 5, and the Delta-Mendota Canal (**DMC**) at Mile Post 31.31L. The Project will include a new pump station fitted with multiple pumps, valves and manifolds, and construction of approximately 5300 feet of new 96 inch pipeline. The new pump station will be designed to deliver approximately 250 cubic feet per second. The proposed conveyance pipeline will connect the proposed pump station to the existing box culverts for the DMC turnout at Mile Post 31.31L.

4. LOCATION OF PROJECT: The Project is located in western Stanislaus County, California, approximately two miles north of the community of Westley, along the WSID Main Canal. The majority of the Project will be located within existing WSID right-of-way or easements. Additional easements will be required to accommodate the Project west of the Main Canal and provide sufficient contractor work area during construction of the Project.

5. NAME AND ADDRESS OF PROJECT PROPONENT: West Stanislaus Irrigation District, Post Office Box 37, 116 E Street, Westley, California 95387, (209) 894-3091.

6. MITIGATION MEASURES: None

7. A copy of the Initial Study regarding the environmental effect of this project is on file at the office of West Stanislaus Irrigation District set forth above. This study was:

   ☑ Adopted as presented.

   ☐ Adopted with changes. Specific modifications supporting reasons are attached.

8. West Stanislaus Irrigation District considered this Negative Declaration at a public meeting of its Board of Directors on October 12, 2010.

9. DETERMINATION: *(To be completed by the Lead Agency)*
   On the basis of this initial evaluation:

☑ I find that the proposed project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment, and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.

☐ I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because revisions in the project have been made by or agreed to by the project proponent. A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.

☐ I find that the proposed project MAY have a significant effect on the environment, and an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required.

☐ I find that the proposed project MAY have a "potentially significant impact" or "potentially significant unless mitigated" impact on the environment, but at least one effect 1) has been adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and 2) has been addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis as described on attached sheets. An ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required, but it must analyze only the effects that remain to be addressed.

☐ I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, because all potentially significant effects (a) have been analyzed adequately in an earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION pursuant to applicable standards, and (b) have been avoided or mitigated pursuant to that earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION, including revisions or mitigation measures that are imposed upon the proposed project, nothing further is required.

Robert Pierce

Robert Pierce, General Manager

10/12/10

Date

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LIST OF FIGURES

1. SUMMARY

Project Title:	West Stanislaus Irrigation District DMC Intertie Project
Project Location:	Stanislaus County
Lead Agency:	West Stanislaus Irrigation District
Agency Carrying Out Project:	West Stanislaus Irrigation District
Contact Person:	Robert Pierce General Manager West Stanislaus Irrigation District 116 E Street Westley, California 95387 (209) 894-3091 Phone (209) 894-3383 Fax

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED:

☐ Aesthetics	☐ Agriculture and Forestry Resources	☐ Air Quality
☐ Biological Resources	☐ Cultural Resources	☐ Geology /Soils
☐ Greenhouse Gas Emissions	☐ Hazards & Hazardous Materials	☐ Hydrology/Water Quality
☐ Land Use/Planning	☐ Mineral Resources	☐ Noise
☐ Population/Housing	☐ Public Services	☐ Recreation
☐ Transportation/Traffic	☐ Utilities/Service Systems	☐ Mandatory Findings of Significance

2. INTRODUCTION

The West Stanislaus Irrigation District (District) was established in 1920 for the purpose of providing water for area farmers to grow crops in the San Joaquin Valley. The District diverts 262 cfs per their water right for irrigation from the San Joaquin River between Mendota Pool and Vernalis in accordance with their License Number 3957 (Permit 2758, Application 1987). The District's Point of Diversion is described as north twenty nine degrees fifty minutes east (N29d50E), nineteen thousand two hundred ninety (19,290) feet from W¼ corner of Section 28, T4S, R7E, Mount Diablo Base and Meridian (MDB&M), being within the SE ¼ NE ¼ of Section 10, T4S, R7E MDB&M.

The District serves an area that is unincorporated and agricultural, located west of the San Joaquin River, northwest of the City of Patterson, and includes the unincorporated communities of Westley, Grayson and Vernalis. **Figure 1.** A small portion of the District extends into San Joaquin County. **Figure 2.** The District boundary includes approximately 21,676 acres. The District provides its customers with irrigation water for agricultural purposes. This water is provided via several sources, including surface water from the Tuolumne and San Joaquin Rivers, groundwater from five deep wells within the District's boundary[1], and imported water from the Central Valley Project (described below).

In addition, the District is obligated by a 1928 agreement to divert at its diversion point on the San Joaquin River, 45 cfs of riparian water for irrigation of approximately 2,207 acres of riparian land adjacent to the District, known as the White Lake Water Company, located north of the unincorporated community of Grayson. That agreement is still binding between the parties and imposes upon WSID the continuing obligation to dedicate 45 cfs of diversion capacity to the adjacent riparian lands. This was confirmed by a State Water Resources Control Board September 11, 1941 Memorandum of Field Visit stating: ". . .the district is obligated to supply up to 45 cfs to the Burkhard property by an agreement since 1928 and merely acts as a transporting agent for this water which is under riparian and an old appropriative right."

[1] The district has historically operated four deep wells. Construction will begin shortly on a fifth deep well, planned and funded by the United States Bureau of Reclamation, pursuant to the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 New Wells Project – Region 1 FONSI 10-22-MP dated July 13, 2010.

The District also receives Central Valley Project water annually from the Delta Mendota Canal (DMC) per their contract 14-06-200-1072-LTR. The contract provides for delivery of 50,000 AF/yr of project water used to supplement crop water delivery requirements. The crops grown in the District service area are primarily row crops, including alfalfa, almonds, apricots, beans, and tomatoes. The average farm size in the District is about 160 acres. The District service area is shown in **Figure 2.**

All irrigation water from the San Joaquin River is conveyed through a two mile intake channel just upstream of the confluence of the Tuolumne and San Joaquin Rivers then pumped to the District's Main Canal. The Main Canal consists of roughly 3 miles of concrete lined channel with six pump stations. The first pump station lifts the water from the intake channel approximately 30 feet into the Reach 1 Main Canal. Each subsequent pump station lifts the water approximately 20 feet for a total vertical lift of approximately 130 ft. Off of each lift there are two laterals, one running north and one running south, to supply water for irrigation purpose. All water deliveries made from the first reach are delivered to the White Lake Water Company and portions of water deliveries made from the second and third reaches are made to the White Lake Water Company for a combined delivery rate of 45 cfs. All other deliveries are made to WSID.

Along the intake channel, which ends at the District's Main Lift Station No. 1, there are four small pumps with capacities of 10 cfs each owned by United States Fish and Wildlife Service used to irrigate habitat maintained on the San Joaquin River National Wildlife Refuge. The refuge is comprised of 6,500 acres of habitat consisting of trees and flora for the purposes of wildlife enhancement.

Figure 1 Vicinity

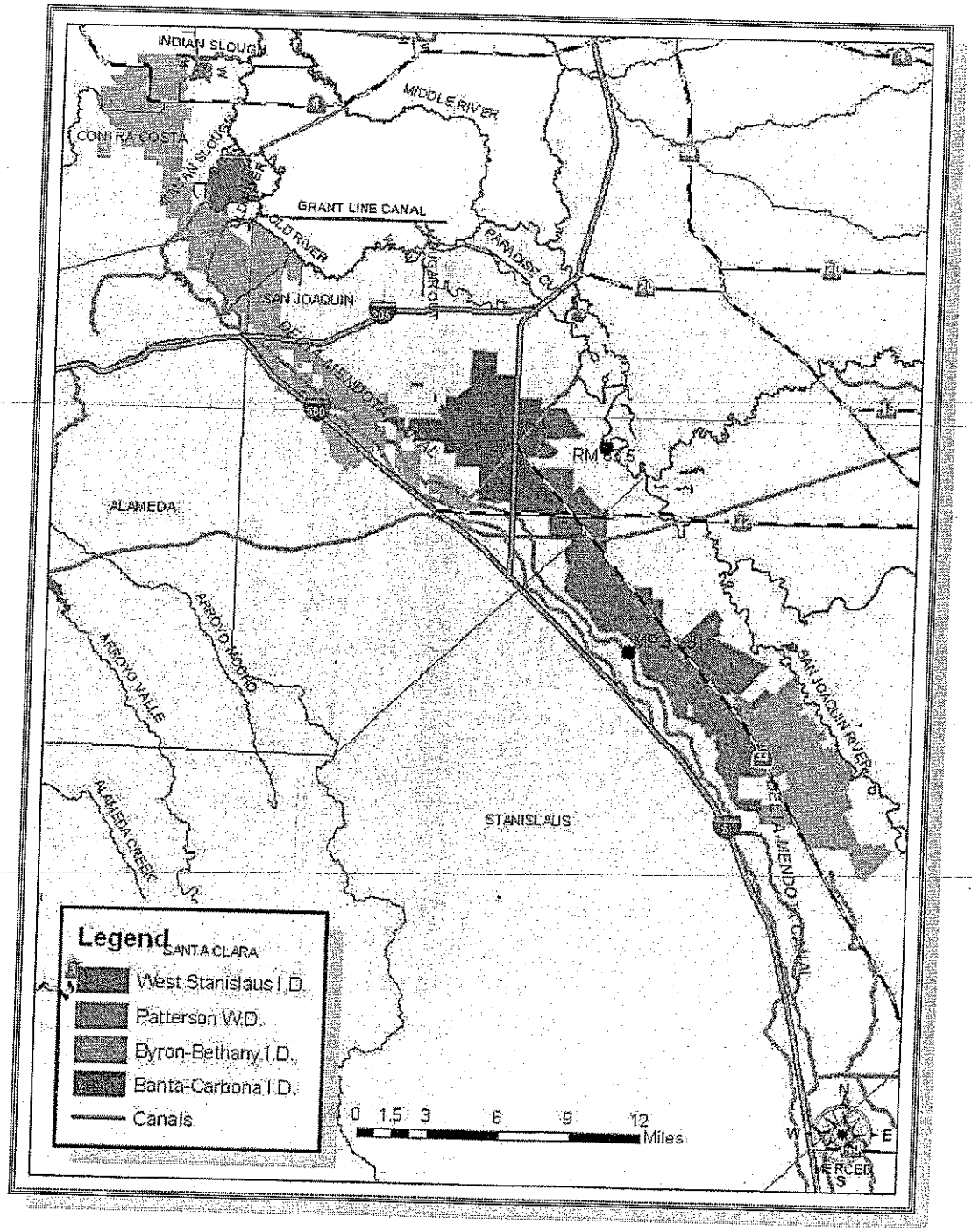
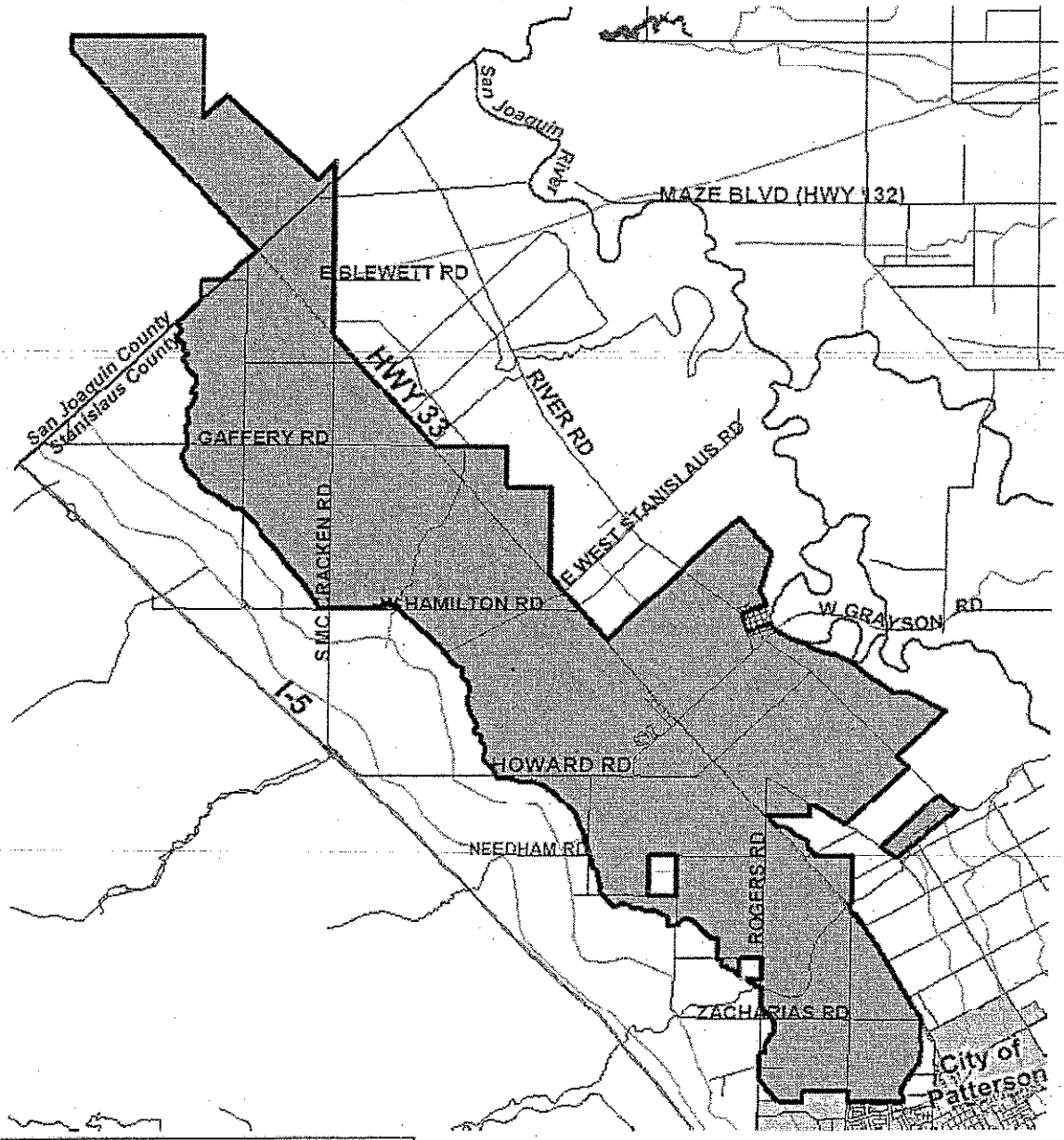

INDIAN SLOUGH
MIDDLE RIVER
CONTRA COSTA
GRANT LINE CANAL
OLD RIVER
PARADISE CU
SAN JOAQUIN
ALAMEDA
RM 84.5
ARROYO MOCHO
ARROYO VALLE
ALAMEDA CREEK
SAN JOAQUIN RIVER
DELTA MENDOTA CANAL
STANISLAUS
SANTA CLARA
MERCED
Legend
West Stanislaus I.D.
Patterson W.D.
Byron-Bethany I.D.
Banta-Carbona I.D.
Canals
0 1.5 3 6 9 12
Miles
N
W
E
S

Figure 2

West Stanislaus Irrigation District

Boundary & Sphere of Influence



The District Board of Directors has found and determined that the District would benefit from construction of facilities connecting its internal distribution system with the DMC for the following reasons:

1. During recent years of water shortage, the District has had to utilize groundwater to meet demands within its boundary. Pumping groundwater during off-peak times for delivery to and storage via the DMC would allow withdrawal of groundwater from the DMC later to meet peak demands.

2. The District relies on both their river supply and their CVP supply to meet water demand. In recent years, restrictions in diversions from the Sacramento/San Joaquin Delta have substantially reduced CVP deliveries. In 2009, the District installed temporary pumps and pipelines to divert river water into the DMC. This system was used to pump water into the DMC in the spring time for regulatory storage, allowing the District to use this water during peak demand in the summer. The proposed Project will make these improvements permanent.

3. An important feature of the Project is two new diversion points off of the new Intertie pipeline to Reaches 5 and 6. These diversions will allow water to be diverted from the Intertie Pipeline into either or both of these reaches. In the event of pump failure in Pump Station 5 and/or 6, water service to Reaches 5 and 6 can be sustained through use of the new diversion points on the Intertie Pipeline. This feature is important since these stations have received little use over approximately 40 years, prior to the cut back in CVP supplies. The cut back in CVP supplies has resulted in much higher use of these two stations. The redundant water supply capability this Project provides for these two pumping stations, assures water delivery to a large percentage of the District will continue.

The Project, illustrated in **Figure 3**, involves diverting water from the San Joaquin River at existing Pump Station 1, or pumping groundwater from existing well locations, to be conveyed

through the District's existing water conveyance and distribution system to the new pump station (Pump Station 5A) to be located upstream (east of) Pump Station 5. A new 96" diameter pipeline approximately 5300 feet in length will connect new Pump Station 5A to the federally owned DMC. The water would be pumped into the DMC through the District's existing DMC turnout at DMC Mile Post 31.31L. All surface and groundwater pumped into the DMC pursuant to the project is for regulatory storage for later use within District boundary when District demand exceeds the rate at which it may be diverted from the source. In addition, no native or untilled land (fallow for three years or more) would be cultivated with water involved in the Project, as water will be delivered only to historically irrigated lands within the District boundary.

Organization of the Initial Study

Chapter 1 – Summary. Provides information about the proposed project location, lead agency, and identification of environmental issues determined to be "Potentially Significant Impacts" as indicated by the Environmental Checklist contained in Section 4.

Chapter 2 – Introduction. Provides background information about the proposed project.

Chapter 3 – Project Description. Describes the project location, surrounding land uses, project objectives, and characteristics of the proposed project.

Chapter 4 – Environmental Checklist. Contains the Environmental Checklist and describes the impacts of the proposed project, and discusses potential impacts.

Chapter 5 – Consultation with Responsible Agencies Summarizes consultation with the United States Bureau of Reclamation

Chapter 6 - Determination. States the determination by the Lead Agency.

West Stanislaus Irrigation District

Main Canal to DMC Intertie Project

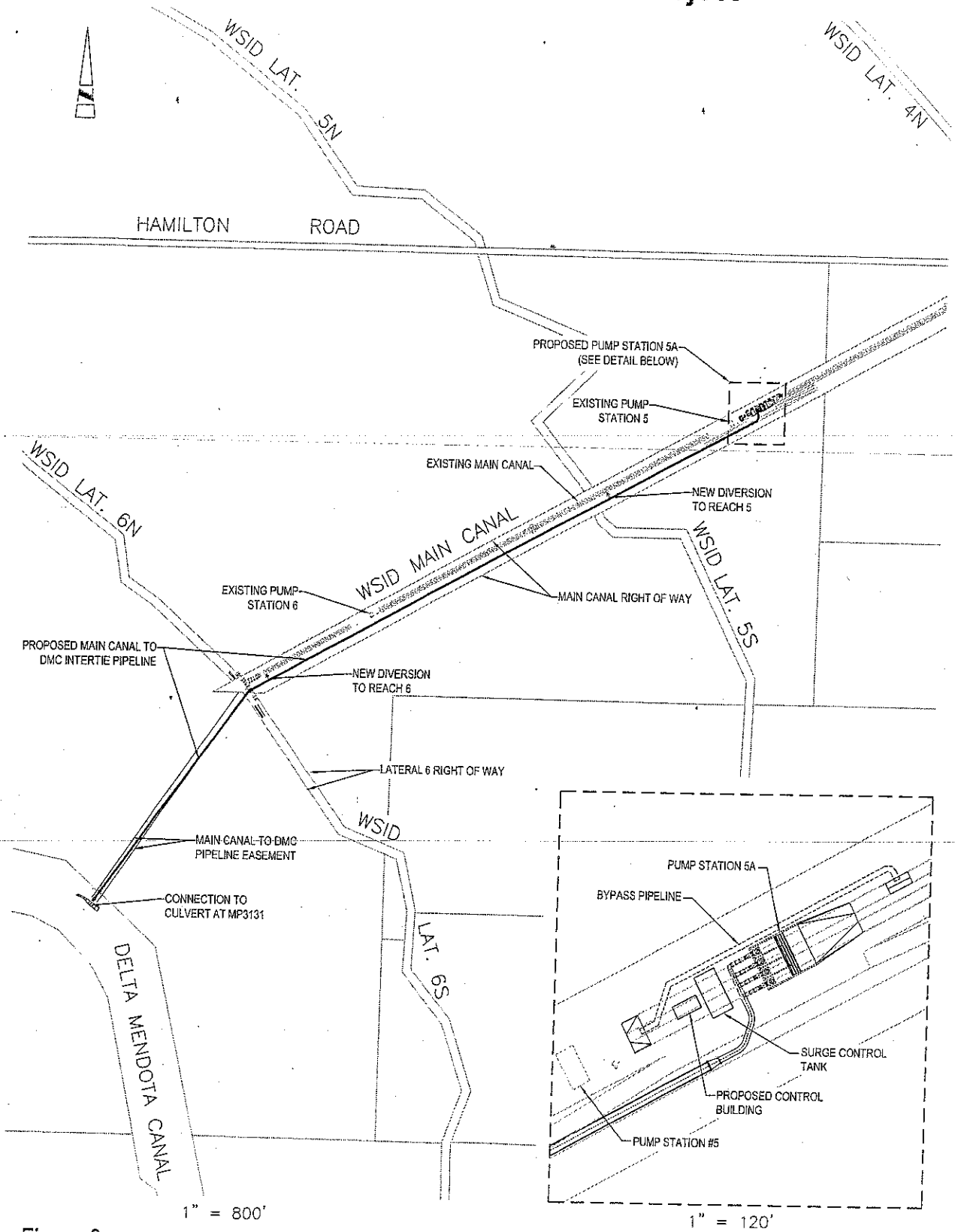


Figure 3

PATH/FILENAME: \\LOSUBS1FP001\DATA\PROJECTS\WSID\60151268-MC INTERTIE TO DMC\400-TECHNICAL\405-CIVIL\CAD\DESIGN\PIPE LAYOUT.DWG
LAST UPDATE: Friday, August 27, 2010 7:37:23 AM
PLOT DATE: Thursday, September 02, 2010 11:35:16 AM

AECOM
1120 WEST "I" STREET, SUITE C
LOS BANOS, CALIFORNIA 93635

August 2010

3. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Project Objectives

The project has three objectives: (1) allow storage of groundwater (2) allow regulatory storage of San Joaquin River water in the DMC, and (3) create redundancy in the District's distribution system.

Project Area

The Project is to be constructed within the existing WSID Boundary and in an easement between the westerly boundary of the District and the DMC near Mile Post 31.31L. Additional easements will be required to accommodate the Project west of the Main Canal and provide sufficient contractor work area during construction of the Project. The boundary of the District in Stanislaus and San Joaquin Counties is shown in **Figure 2.**

Existing Conditions

Description of District Water Supply

Volume of Water Supply

District holds a license to divert 262 cfs (30 day running average) of surface water from the San Joaquin River from January 1 to December 31 of each year. This water is delivered for agricultural purposes to District's 20,166 irrigable acres within the service area.

In addition, WSID is obligated by a 1928 agreement to divert at its diversion point on the San Joaquin River, 45 cfs of riparian water for irrigation of riparian land adjacent to the District, known as the White Lake Water Company. That agreement is still binding between the parties, and imposes upon WSID the continuing obligation to dedicate 45 cfs of pumping capacity to the adjacent riparian lands. This was confirmed by a State Water Resources Control Board September 11, 1941 Memorandum of Field Visit stating: ". . .the district is obligated to supply up to 45 cfs to the Burkhard property by an agreement since 1928 and merely acts as a transporting agent for this water which is under riparian and an old appropriative right." As a result, during peak periods, the district is called upon to divert 307 cfs from the San Joaquin River.

The District also receives Central Valley Project water annually from the DMC per its contract 14-06-200-1072-LTR. The contract provides for delivery of 50,000 AF/yr of project water used to supplement crop water delivery requirements.

Uses of Water Supply

Water delivered to District is used for the production of food and fiber within the boundary of the District. The major crops grown in the District are alfalfa, almonds, apricots, walnuts, peaches, vineyard, melons, silage corn, beans, and tomatoes. The average farm size in the District is about 160 acres. The District serves irrigation water to 20,166 acres within its boundary as shown in **Figure 3.**

Conservation Efforts

District has engaged in an active water conservation effort to reduce water losses through evaporation in open ditches, operational spill and water losses through canal seepage. The District's distribution system consists of a three-mile-long, concrete-lined Main Canal and 84 miles of laterals and sublaterals that are either canals or pipelines. Sixty-eight of these 84 miles are either concrete-lined canals or concrete pipe. The Main Canal carries water supplied by six pumping plants. The District has a continuous monitoring system to accurately measure water diverted into the laterals. In addition, the water measurements are taken three times daily at the water user's turnouts. Control structures in the laterals control the level of water and regulate the flow.

Description of Project

Volume of Water to be Conveyed

District proposes to utilize its existing pumps and conveyance systems to convey groundwater and/or San Joaquin River surface water during periods of low demand into the DMC for regulatory storage and withdrawal into the District during time of peak irrigation demand later in the season. The volume of water to be conveyed on any day would be determined by conveyance capacity within District's internal distribution system and the DMC.

Location of Use

All water conveyed into the DMC for regulatory storage will be used within the boundary of the District, on lands historically irrigated with District supplies.

Facilities Required to Convey Water

The river water to be diverted to storage via the DMC will first be diverted from the San Joaquin River at the District's existing diversion point using the District's existing Pump Station 1 into the Main Canal Reach 1. Three additional pump stations re-lift the water supply through the Main Canal just upstream of the Main Canal Station 5.

Groundwater to be diverted to storage will first be pumped into the District's water distribution system and then a like amount pumped into the DMC using Station 5A. The District currently has five groundwater wells that can be used to supply supplemental water, as shown on **Figure 4.**

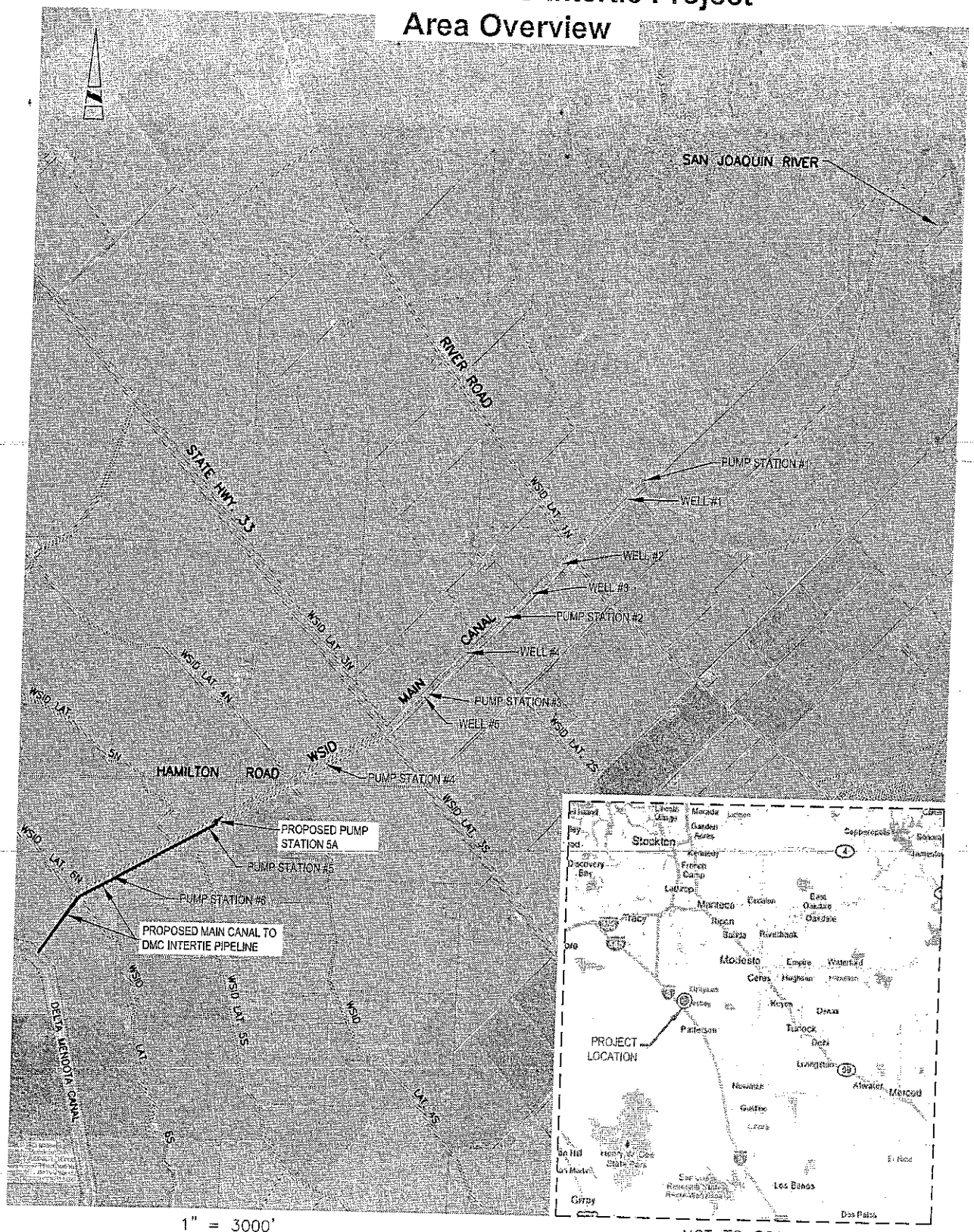
Description of Existing Main Canal System

All irrigation water from the San Joaquin River is conveyed through a two mile intake channel just upstream of the confluence of the Tuolumne and San Joaquin Rivers then pumped to the District's Main Canal. The Main Canal consists of roughly 3 miles of concrete lined channel with six pump stations. The first pump station lifts the water from the intake channel approximately 30 feet into Reach 1. Each subsequent pump station lifts the water approximately 20 feet for a total vertical lift of approximately 130 ft. Off of each lift there are two laterals, one running north and one running south, to supply water for irrigation purpose. All water deliveries from the first lift is to the White Lake Water Company and portions of water deliveries from the second and third lifts are to the White Lake Water Company for a combined delivery rate of 45 cfs. All other deliveries are made to WSID.

West Stanislaus Irrigation District

Main Canal to DMC Intertie Project

Area Overview



1" = 3000'

NOT TO SCALE

Figure 4

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LAST UPDATE: Friday, September 03, 2010 10:18:13 AM PLOT DATE: Tuesday, September 07, 2010 8:53:35 AM

AECOM
1120 WEST "I" STREET, SUITE C
LOS BANOS, CALIFORNIA 93635

August 2010

The District is part of a utility called Power & Water Resource Pooling Authority. This was organized by several water districts to pool their Western Area Power Administration contracts and buy supplemental power on the market in order to get competitive power rates. Daily operations for the District consists of changes in farm deliveries at both 6:00 AM or 5:00 p.m., where gains or reductions in diversions in each lift pool are made by operating a radial gate structure at the head works of each lateral. There are two laterals per pool, one lateral serves the areas north of the Main Canal and the other serves the areas to the south.

Station 5A will be constructed of reinforced concrete and fitted with trashracks, grating, railings and a gantry crane. The station will be contain with 2 variable speed and 2 fixed speed pumps which discharge into a pipe manifold and valving system, and the flow will be metered (flowrate and volume) prior to discharging into the new 96" reinforced concrete pipeline. Facilities will also be installed to limit pressure surges to within an acceptable range. Power will be supplied through a new motor control center. Power draw is expected to be approximately 2700 horsepower (2000 kilowatts). The energy consumed to pump 10,000 acre feet is estimated at 1,100,000 kilowatt-hours. A 72" bypass pipe line will be placed along side the pump station to bypass flows of the Main Canal to Station 5. The Project concept plan is depicted in **Figure 3.**

Agreement Required for Project

By agreement with the United States Bureau of Reclamation the water would be pumped via Station 5A into the DMC at DMC milepost 31.31L for regulatory storage and later District use. Therefore, the project can be implemented by diverting water through District's existing DMC turnout. Reclamation retains jurisdictional authority over the DMC and its operation.

Project Characteristics

Because the District currently receives CVP water supplies through the DMC, water temporarily stored through this Project would again be delivered to the District through the existing DMC facilities, and the Pump Station 5A conveyance pipeline delivering water by gravity from the DMC to the District's Main Canal.

4. ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
I. AESTHETICS -- Would the project:				
a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?	☐	☐	☐	X
b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?	☐	☐	☐	X
c) Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings?	☐	☐	☐	X
d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare that would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?	☐	☐	☐	X

Discussion

a - e) The Project involves installation of a pump station and discharge pipeline connected to the DMC, and related facilities, no other construction or land alterations are involved. Therefore, the project would have no impact.

Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
II. AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY RESOURCES: In determining whether impacts to agricultural resources are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to the California Agricultural Land Evaluation and Site Assessment Model (1997) prepared by the California Dept. of Conservation as an optional model to use in assessing impacts on agriculture and farmland. In determining whether impacts to forest resources, including timberland, are				

Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to information compiled by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection regarding the state's inventory of forest land, including the Forest and Range Assessment Project and the Forest Legacy Assessment project; and forest carbon measurement methodology provided in Forest Protocols adopted by the California Air Resources Board. *Would the project*:				
a) Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?	☐	☐	☐	X
b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?.	☐	☐	☐	X
c) Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code section 51104(g))?	☐	☐	☐	X
d) Result in the loss of forestland or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	☐	☐	☐	X
e) Involve other changes in the existing environment that, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	☐	☐	☐	X

Discussion

a-e) The Project involves construction of a new pump facility within existing District right-of-way, installation of a new pipeline partially within an existing District easement and within additional easements to be acquired to accommodate the Project west of the Main Canal and provide sufficient contractor work area during construction of the Project. No cropped acres will be taken out of production, no additional acreage will be irrigated, and no change in land use will occur. There is no forest land or timberland in the Project area, as all lands are already in agriculture or agriculture related use. The project is likely to allow the acreage to continue in agricultural use. The Project is exempt from building and zoning regulations.

Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
III. AIR QUALITY – Where available, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management or air pollution control district may be relied upon to make the following determination. *Would the project:*				
a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?	☐	☐	☐	X
b) Violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation?	☐	☐	☐	X
c) Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard (including releasing emissions that exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors)?	☐	☐	☐	X
d) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?	☐	☐	☐	X
e) Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people?	☐	☐	☐	X

Discussion

a-e) The Project involves construction of a new pump facility within existing District right-of-way, installation of a new pipeline partially within an existing District easement and within additional easements to be acquired to accommodate the Project west of the Main Canal and provide sufficient contractor work area during construction of the Project. Agricultural production to the same degree and intensity as currently occurs would not obstruct the implementation of the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District Rate of Progress Plan (San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District 2002). Construction equipment will meet all regulatory standards. There would be no impacts under this resource category as a result of this project.

f) The pumping of surface or groundwater requires the use of energy, which results in greenhouse gas emissions (based on use of current technology). Carbon Dioxide (CO_2) is a Greenhouse Gas (GHG), and CO_2 emission is considered a criteria pollutant. There is, however, no currently established threshold of significance for greenhouse gas emissions in the air district. So while any related CO_2 emissions are expected to result in air quality impacts, the GHG impact does not rise to the level of level of significance either individually or cumulatively. The Project may indeed reduce greenhouse gas emissions by eliminating the use of diesel pumps currently used by the district to pump water into the DMC.

g) Neither the District nor the regional Air Quality Management District currently has an existing plan or policy in place for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. Therefore, any potential GHG emission does not conflict with an existing plan or policy.

Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES -- *Would the project*:				
a) Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special	☐	☐	☐	X

Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?				
b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, and regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Game or US Fish and Wildlife Service?	☐	☐	☐	X
c) Have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?	☐	☐	☐	X
d) Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?	☐	☐	☐	X
e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?	☐	☐	☐	X
f) Conflict with the provisions of an adopted HCP, NCCP, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?	☐	☐	☐	X

Discussion

a – f) The Project involves construction of a new pump facility within existing District right-of-way, installation of a new pipeline partially within an existing District easement and within additional easements to be acquired to accommodate the Project west of the Main Canal and provide

sufficient contractor work area during construction of the Project, and no other construction or land alterations. All pumping from the San Joaquin River would be within the water rights held by the District, and within historical pumping variations.

The proposed project involves the conveyance of water from the San Joaquin River and/or groundwater to the DMC through existing facilities. No unanticipated construction or land alterations are involved. While the District will divert water from the San Joaquin River or from the groundwater basin, no change is contemplated to the diversion facilities by the project, and no change is contemplated from the historical overall quantity of diversion. Therefore, the project would have no impact on biological resources.

In addition, most of the habitat types required by species protected by the Endangered Species Act do not occur in the project area. The Project would not involve the conversion of any land fallowed and untilled for three or more years. Such actions would require subsequent environmental review. The Project also would not change the land use patterns of the cultivated or fallowed fields that do not have some value to listed species. Due to capacity limitations and water quality restrictions in the DMC, there would be no effects on listed fish species. No critical habitat occurs within the area affected by the Project, and so none of the primary constituent elements of any critical habitat would be affected. Any encountered biological resources are likely to be those associated with actively cultivated land.

There will be no impact or effects to fisheries. There will be no impact on wetlands. The project will have no impact on requirements imposed upon third parties to meet specify minimum flow requirements and operational constraints for listed fish and other considerations, or existing programs to enhance and protect biological resources. The project will have no applicable impact or any affect on any listed or proposed threatened and endangered species pursuant to the Endangered Species Act.

The proposed project would not conflict with any local, regional, or state policy, ordinance or conservation plan in effect for the area. Hence no impact to adopted habitat conservation plans would occur with project implementation.

Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
V. CULTURAL RESOURCES -- *Would the project*:				
a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in §15064.5?	☐	☐	☐	X
b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to §15064.5?	☐	☐	☐	X
c) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?	☐	☐	☐	X
d) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?	☐	☐	☐	X

Discussion

a-d) The Project involves construction of a new pump facility within existing District right-of-way, installation of a new pipeline partially within an existing District easement and within additional easements to be acquired to accommodate the Project west of the Main Canal and provide sufficient contractor work area during construction of the Project, and ancillary facilities, and no other construction or land alterations. Therefore, the project would have no impact on cultural resources. The project would require only minimal surface disturbing activities at the point of connection to the DMC turnout, which are for a short duration. Farming operations such as plowing, planting, and harvesting would continue to take place on land where surface disturbing activities have continuously occurred for many years. Therefore, there would be no substantial adverse changes in the significance of historical or archeological resources as defined in CEQA

Guidelines in §15064.5. There would be no impacts under this resource category as a result of this project.

Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
VI. GEOLOGY AND SOILS – *Would the project*:				
a) Expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:	☐	☐	☐	X
i) Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42	☐	☐	☐	X
ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?	☐	☐	☐	X
iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?	☐	☐	☐	X
iv) Landslides?	☐	☐	☐	X
b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?	☐	☐	☐	X
c) Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse?	☐	☐	☐	X
d) Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial risks to life or property?	☐	☐	☐	X

Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
e) Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of wastewater?	☐	☐	☐	X

Discussion

a-e) The Project involves construction of a new pump facility within existing District right-of-way, installation of a new pipeline partially within an existing District easement and within additional easements to be acquired to accommodate the Project west of the Main Canal and provide sufficient contractor work area during construction of the Project, and ancillary facilities, and no other construction or land alterations. There is no change or impact to soils or geology. There is no exposure or risk applicable to any seismic related activity, landslides, structures, or property of any kind. There would be no impacts under this resource category as a result of this project.

Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
VII. GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS - - *Would the project:*				
a) Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?	☐	☐	☐	X
b) Conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?	☐	☐	☐	X

Discussion

The Project involves construction of a new pump facility within existing District right-of-way, installation of a new pipeline partially within an existing District easement and within additional easements to be acquired to accommodate the Project west of the Main Canal and provide

sufficient contractor work area during construction of the Project, and ancillary facilities, and no other construction or land alterations.

Agricultural production to the same degree and intensity as currently occurs would not obstruct the implementation of the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District Rate of Progress Plan (San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District 2002). There would be no impacts under this resource category as a result of this project.

The pumping of surface or groundwater requires the use of energy, which results in greenhouse gas emissions (based on use of current technology). Carbon Dioxide (CO_2) is a Greenhouse Gas (GHG), and CO_2 emission is considered a criteria pollutant. There is, however, no currently established threshold of significance for greenhouse gas emissions in the air district. So while any related CO_2 emissions are expected to result in air quality impacts, the GHG impact does not rise to the level of level of significance either individually or cumulatively. In fact, the project should result in the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by eliminating the use of diesel pumps which currently are used to pump water into the DMC.

Neither the District nor the regional Air Quality Management District currently has an existing plan or policy in place for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. Therefore, any potential GHG emission does not conflict with an existing plan or policy.

Issues	**Potentially Significant Impact**	**Less Than Significant with Mitigation**	**Less Than Significant Impact**	**No Impact**
VIII. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS -- *Would the project:*				
a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?	☐	☐	☐	X
b) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the	☐	☐	☐	X

Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
environment?				
c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?	☐	☐	☐	X
d) Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?	☐	☐	☐	X
e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?	☐	☐	☐	X
f) For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?	☐	☐	☐	X
g) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	☐	☐	☐	X
h) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands?	☐	☐	☐	X

Discussion

a-h) The Project involves construction of a new pump facility within existing District right-of-way, installation of a new pipeline partially within an existing District easement and within additional easements to be acquired to accommodate the Project west of the Main Canal and provide

sufficient contractor work area during construction of the Project, and connecting to existing DMC turnout pipes, and no other construction or land alterations. Therefore, the project would have no impact.

Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
IX. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY -- *Would the project:*				
a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements?	☐	☐	☐	X
b) Substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that there would be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater table level (e.g., the production rate of pre-existing nearby wells would drop to a level that would not support existing land uses or planned uses for which permits have been granted)?	☐	☐	☐	X
c) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, in a manner that would result in substantial erosion or silation on- or off-site?	☐	☐	☐	X
d) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner that would result in flooding on- or off-site?	☐	☐	☐	X
e) Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned storm water drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff?	☐	☐	☐	X
f) Otherwise substantially degrade water quality?	☐	☐	☐	X

Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
g) Place housing within a 100-year flood hazard area as mapped on a federal Flood Hazard Boundary or Flood Insurance Rate Map or other flood hazard delineation map?	☐	☐	☐	X
h) Place within a 100-year flood hazard area structures that would impede or redirect flood flows?	☐	☐	☐	X
i) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving flooding, including flooding as a result of the failure of a levee or dam?	☐	☐	☐	X
j) Inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow?	☐	☐	☐	X

Discussion

a-j) The Project involves construction of a new pump facility within existing District right-of-way, installation of a new pipeline partially within an existing District easement and within additional easements to be acquired to accommodate the Project west of the Main Canal and provide sufficient contractor work area during construction of the Project, and no other construction or land alterations. No change in land use is contemplated by the project that would affect hydrology or water quality anyway. Therefore, the Project would have no water resource impacts related to land use change.

The Project involves the conveyance of water from the San Joaquin River and groundwater wells to the DMC through existing and new facilities as described. There will be no increase in irrigated area within the District, as water transferred through use of the Project is intended to make up for reduced District supplies, not to increase water use over historic use within the District. The Project will enable the District to better sustain agricultural production by making better use of its underlying groundwater and San Joaquin River water supplies as well as limited CVP supply. Water supplies will be maintained within existing District conveyance and storage systems. No

substantial erosion, siltation or flooding on- or off-site would occur. The construction activities associated with the proposed Project are minor; therefore, no impacts relating to water drainage patterns would occur with project implementation.

The San Luis Delta Mendota Water Authority, of which the District is a part, has adopted an AB3030 groundwater management plan, and all groundwater pumping within the District is undertaken in compliance with the applicable groundwater management plan.

The Project will not create or contribute runoff water thereby exceeding the capacity of existing or planned storm water drainage systems (see discussion in paragraph above). Therefore, no impacts relating to storm water drainage systems would occur with Project implementation.

The Project will not involve the construction of housing. The Project will use existing District and CVP delivery and storage facilities, which were built to recognized construction standards to limit the potential for exposure of people or property to water-related hazards, such as flooding. The Project would not expose people or property to water-related hazards such as flooding by impeding or redirecting flood flows.

The Project would not expose people, structures or associated facilities to inundation of seiche, tsunami, or mudflow. No impacts would result from Project implementation with respect to tsunamis, seiches, or mudslides.

X. LAND USE AND PLANNING - *Would the project:*				
a) Physically divide an established community?	☐	☐	☐	X
b) Conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the project (including, but not limited to the general plan, specific plan, local coastal program, or zoning ordinance) adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating	☐	☐	☐	X

an environmental effect?				
c) Conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan?	☐	☐	☐	X

Discussion

a-c) The Project involves construction of a new pump facility within existing District right-of-way, installation of a new pipeline partially within an existing District easement and within additional easements to be acquired to accommodate the Project west of the Main Canal and provide sufficient contractor work area during construction of the Project, and ancillary facilities, and no other construction or land alterations.

There is no land use conversion that will result from this action and no changes or impacts to any land planning or established community, and the Project is an allowable use in the current A-2-40 zone designation. There are no habitat conservation plans or community conservation plans in the vicinity of the Project.

XI. MINERAL RESOURCES -- *Would the project:*				
a) Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?	☐	☐	☐	X
b) Result in the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan?	☐	☐	☐	X

Discussion

a, b) The Project involves construction of a new pump facility within existing District right-of-way, installation of a new pipeline partially within an existing District easement and within additional easements to be acquired to accommodate the Project west of the Main Canal and provide sufficient contractor work area during construction of the Project, and ancillary facilities. There are no mining activities that would be affected by the Project. The Project would not interfere with a

mineral resource recovery site or any future mineral activities. There would be no impacts under this resource category as a result of this Project.

Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
XII. NOISE – *Would the project result in*:				
a) Exposure of persons to or generation of noise levels in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?	☐	☐	☐	X
b) Exposure of persons to or generation of excessive ground borne vibration or ground borne noise levels?	☐	☐	☐	X
c) A substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?	☐	☐	☐	X
d) A substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?	☐	☐	☐	X
e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?	☐	☐	☐	X
f) For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would people in the area be exposed to excessive noise levels?	☐	☐	☐	X

Discussion

a-f) The Project involves construction of a new pump facility within existing District right-of-way, installation of a new pipeline partially within an existing District easement and within additional easements to be acquired to accommodate the Project west of the Main Canal and provide

sufficient contractor work area during construction of the Project, and ancillary facilities. Construction activities will be confined to normal working hours and all equipment shall be required to comply with noise suppression regulations to keep the noise generated by the construction activities within applicable standards.

The pump station will be constructed below the natural ground level and the pumps will be powered by electric motors so the noise generation will be below ambient levels. Impacts from noise generation from both the construction activities and the Project's operation will be less than significant.

Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
XIII. POPULATION AND HOUSING -- *Would the project*:				
a) Induce substantial population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?	☐	☐	☐	X
b) Displace substantial numbers of existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	☐	☐	☐	X
c) Displace substantial numbers of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	☐	☐	☐	X

Discussion

a-c) The pump station will be constructed below the natural ground level and the pumps will be powered by electric motors so the noise generation will be below ambient levels. Impacts from noise generation from both the construction activities and the Project's operation will be less than significant. No change in land use is contemplated by the Project; therefore, the Project would have no impact on population or housing.

There is no applicable impact or effect to population and housing. There is no displacement to any numbers of people nor any net effect or indirect effect from the Project related to jobs or housing.

Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
XIV. PUBLIC SERVICES				
a) Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the public services:				
Fire protection?	☐	☐	☐	X
Police protection?	☐	☐	☐	X
Schools?	☐	☐	☐	X
Parks?	☐	☐	☐	X
Other public facilities?	☐	☐	☐	X

Discussion

The Project involves construction of a new pump facility within existing District right-of-way, installation of a new pipeline partially within an existing District easement and within additional easements to be acquired to accommodate the Project west of the Main Canal and provide sufficient contractor work area during construction of the Project; ancillary facilities; connecting to existing DMC turnout pipes; and no other construction or land alterations. The Project represents a minor alteration in the District's overall water distribution facilities which currently require only occasional police response to facility vandalism. The new pumping facility will be fitted with security fencing, motion detectors, sirens and other devices to discourage vandalism, thus increases on the demands on local police as a result of the Project are not considered to be

significant. There are no other public services impacted by the project, and no change in land use is contemplated by the Project; therefore, the Project would have no impact on public services.

Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
XV. RECREATION --				
a) Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?	☐	☐	☐	X
b) Does the project include or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities that might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?	☐	☐	☐	X

Discussion

a, b) The Project involves construction of a new pump facility within existing District right-of-way, installation of a new pipeline partially within an existing District easement and within additional easements to be acquired to accommodate the Project west of the Main Canal and provide sufficient contractor work area during construction of the Project; ancillary facilities; connecting to existing DMC turnout pipes; and no other construction or land alterations. The Project provides no recreational opportunities and the Project will have no effect on the recreational opportunities of the San Joaquin River or the DMC.

Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
XVI. TRANSPORTATION/TRAFFIC -- *Would the project:*				
a) Conflict with an applicable plan, ordinance or policy establishing measures of effectiveness for the performance of the circulation systems,	☐	☐	☐	X

Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
taking into account all modes of transportation including mass transit and non-motorized travel and relevant components of the circulation system, including but not limited to intersections, streets, highways and freeways, pedestrian and bicycle paths and mass transit?				
b) Conflict with an applicable congestion management program, including, but not limited to level of service standards and travel demand measures, or other standards established by the county congestion management agency for designated roads or highway?	☐	☐	☐	X
c) Result in a change in air traffic patterns, including either an increase in traffic levels or a change in location that results in substantial safety risks?	☐	☐	☐	X
d) Substantially increase hazards due to a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?	☐	☐	☐	X
e) Result in inadequate emergency access?	☐	☐	☐	X
f) Conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs regarding public transit, bicycle, or pedestrian facilities, or otherwise decrease the performance or safety of such facilities?	☐	☐	☐	X

Discussion

a-f) The Project involves construction of a new pump facility within existing District right-of-way, installation of a new pipeline partially within an existing District easement and within additional easements to be acquired to accommodate the Project west of the Main Canal and provide sufficient contractor work area during construction of the Project; ancillary facilities; connecting to

existing DMC turnout pipes; and no other construction or land alterations. The Project would have no impact on transportation or traffic.

Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
XVII. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS -- *Would the project:*				
a) Exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board?	☐	☐	☐	X
b) Require or result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?	☐	☐	☐	X
c) Require or result in the construction of new storm water drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?	☐	☐	☐	X
d) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources, or are new/expanded entitlements needed?	☐	☐	☐	X
e) Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider that serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?	☐	☐	☐	X
f) Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs?	☐	☐	☐	X
g) Comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste?	☐	☐	☐	X

Discussion

a-g) The Project involves construction of a new pump facility within existing District right-of-way, installation of a new pipeline partially within an existing District easement and within additional easements to be acquired to accommodate the Project west of the Main Canal and provide sufficient contractor work area during construction of the Project; ancillary facilities; connecting to existing DMC turnout pipes; and no other construction or land alterations; therefore, the project would have no impact on utilities or service systems.

The Project will not provide additional water supplies that could act as an incentive for conversion of native habitat for increased acreage of agricultural production, municipal and industrial development, or other activities. Use of the water that has been subject to regulatory storage pursuant to this Project will be limited to agricultural/irrigation use. The amount and types of crops planted will vary according to the annual water allocation and farming practices, but water supplies will be available only to lands historically cultivated within the District.

Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
XVIII. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE --				
a) Does the project have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?	☐	☐	☐	X
b) Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection	☐	☐	☐	X

Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects)?				
c) Does the project have environmental effects that will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?	☐	☐	☐	X

Discussion

The Project involves construction of a new pump facility within existing District right-of-way, installation of a new pipeline partially within an existing District easement and within additional easements to be acquired to accommodate the Project west of the Main Canal and provide sufficient contractor work area during construction of the Project; ancillary facilities; connecting to existing DMC turnout pipes; and no other construction or land alterations. The Project will not change the current land use of any land to be annexed. Therefore, there are no mandatory findings of significance.

DISCUSSION OF ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

Cumulative Impacts

District must find that the project may have a significant effect on the environment if the Project's potential environmental impacts, although individually limited, are cumulatively considerable. Public Resources Code §21083(b); 14 Cal Code Regs §15065(c). "Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effect of past projects, other current projects and probable future projects.

Other projects considered by District in its analysis were:

WSID Fish Screen Intake Feasibility Study

The District received funding for a Feasibility Study to evaluate screening its intake on the San Joaquin River as part of the Energy and Water Development Appropriates Act to evaluate the feasibility of intake alternatives to provide positive barrier fish screens for the protection of anadromous fish and other species. These species include chinook salmon and steelhead trout which are listed on the threatened or endangered lists by State and Federal agencies. The Feasibility Study has not yet been completed.

WSID Warren Act Contracts

The Warren Act (Act as of February, 21, 1911, CH. 141, (36 STAT. 925)) authorizes the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) to negotiate agreements to store or convey non-Central Valley Project (CVP) water when excess capacity is available in federal facilities.

- On March 15, 2009 Reclamation adopted a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI-09-169) for a Two-Year Exchange Agreements and/or Warren Act Contracts for Conveyance of non-Central Valley Project (Groundwater) in the Delta-Mendota Canal – Water Year 2010 through Water Year 2011. This FONSI supported Reclamation's approval of a two-year Warren Act contract with the District with a term from March 1, 2010 through February 28, 2011 for pumping and conveyance, and March 1, 2010 through February 29, 2012 for storage in the

DMC. Pursuant to the contract, the District is allowed to pump up to 3,000 acre-feet of non-CVP water into the DMC, subject to available capacity.

- On March 2, 2010 Reclamation adopted a Finding of No Significant Impact for Five-year Warren Act Contracts for Banta-Carbona Irrigation District, Byron-Bethany Irrigation District, Patterson Irrigation District and West Stanislaus Irrigation District (FONSI-09-156). This FONSI supported Reclamation's issuance of five-year Warren Act contract to the District for the conveyance and storage of non-CVP water in the DMC for up to 10,000 AF/year through contract water year 2015. All water will be moved before the end of the five-year period (contract year ending February 28, 2016). Conveyance of non-CVP water under a Warren Act contract is subject to available capacity. All surface water pumped under the Warren Act contract is for storage and later use within district boundary when the district's demand exceeds the rate at which it may be diverted from the source.

San Joaquin River Restoration Program Interim Flows Project - Water Year 2011

The United States Bureau of Reclamation is currently releasing Interim Flows in the San Joaquin River from Friant Dam as specified in the Stipulation of Settlement (**Settlement**) in *NRDC, et al. v. Kirk Rodgers, et al.* In June of 2010, Reclamation released a Draft Supplemental Environmental Assessment and Proposed Finding of No Significant Impact for the San Joaquin River Restoration Program's Water Year 2011 Interim Flows Project describing the direct, indirect, and cumulative environmental effects of the Water Year 2011 Interim Flows Project and the No-Action Alternative.

The WY 2011 Interim Flows Project, would extend the project originally described in the WY 2010 Final Environmental Assessment/Initial Study for one additional year. Continuation of the action would temporarily change Friant Dam operations in WY 2011 (October 1, 2010 through September 30, 2011) to release interim flows as specified in the Settlement.

The interim flows would be conveyed down the San Joaquin River channel, and potentially down the Eastside and Mariposa bypasses, to the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta. As described in the Settlement, the purpose of the Interim Flows is to collect relevant data concerning flows, temperatures, fish needs, seepage losses, recirculation, and recapture and reuse. The San

Joaquin River Restoration Program Implementing Agencies include Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Marine Fisheries Service, California Department of Water Resources, and California Department of Fish and Game. They will conduct a variety of monitoring and study actions for the WY 2011 Interim Flow release period.

The comment period closed on July 23, 2010, but the final document has not been issued.

District has determined that the incremental impacts of the Project are not cumulatively considerable after evaluating them against the backdrop of the environmental effects of the other projects described above.

CONSULTATION WITH RESPONSIBLE AGENCY

There are no other responsible agencies for the Project as defined by Public Resources Code §21069 California Code of Regulations §15381. Completion of the Project will require consent of Reclamation, which must comply with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act before it provides the District with permission to place water in the DMC. District has been in regular contact with Reclamation regarding this Project.

DETERMINATION

Based upon the information contained in the Initial Study, it is determined that the Negative Declaration should be adopted.